

# Conversation Contents

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**From:** Russell.Carol@epamail.epa.gov  
**Sent:** Thu May 17 2012 11:13:05 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Butler.Barbara@epamail.epa.gov, rseal@usgs.gov  
**Subject:**

## . BRISTOL BAY: **Pebble may begin permitting process this year**

Manuel Quinones, E&E reporter

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The Pebble Limited Partnership may submit permitting documents by the end of the year for its controversial gold and copper mine in southwestern Alaska, the company said yesterday.

Pebble said its board of directors approved spending more than \$100 million this year on remaining environmental studies necessary for the permitting process. That includes obtaining information on groundwater and fish and developing a blueprint for the project.

The announcement comes as mine opponents, worried about Bristol Bay's salmon resources, are urging U.S. EPA to pre-emptively veto a key permit for the mine ([Greenwire](#), May 7). The agency is set to release a draft study of large-scale development in the area in the coming weeks.

CEO John Shively said in a statement, "We will continue our work to develop a responsible plan for Pebble that meets our commitment to coexisting with the fish resources."

Earlier this year, Pebble released a 53-chapter Environmental Baseline Document, which compiled studies from outside consultants from between 2004 and 2008. The document will be essential in the permitting process.

Pebble promised public meetings about the project in the fall.

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